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At India-Russia Business Forum, Modi highlights opportunities, Putin commits to reducing trade deficit

(Gns). Russian President Vladimir Putin and PM Narendra Modi on Friday participated in the plenary session of the India-Russia Business Forum in Delhi. The forum, co-organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Roscongress Foundation, brought together leaders of the two countries to "promote multifaceted Russian-Indian cooperation in imports and exports, finance and investments."

Addressing the plenary session, Prime Minister Modi expressed his gratitude to President Putin for

his initiative to bring a large delegation to the event, noting that mutual trust is the greatest strength of the India-Russia partnership. "Be it business or diplomacy, the foundation of any partnership is mutual trust. This trust is the greatest strength of India-Russia relations. It gives direction and momentum to our joint efforts..." Modi remarked.

The PM highlighted the opportunities in India's defence and space sectors after his government opened these for private investments. He also announced that India would allow the private sector into its civil nuclear

sector in a major reform aimed at achieving his developed India goal. "Defence and space have been opened to the private sector. This has created new opportunities in these sectors. Now we are going to open the door to new possibilities in the civil nuclear sector as well. This is not just administrative reform, but mindset reform. The only resolve behind these reforms is a developed India," the PM said.

He also shared new ideas furthering India-Russia cooperation in the area of logistics and connectivity. "In today's meeting,

President Putin and I emphasised realising the full potential of our connectivity. We are committed to moving forward on the INSTC, or the Northern Sea Route, i.e., the Chennai-Vladivostok Corridor. Progress will be made in this direction soon. This will



reduce transit times, lower costs, and open up new markets for businesses. "With the power of digital technology, we can connect customs, logistics, and regulatory systems through virtual trade corridors. This will speed up customs clearance, reduce paperwork, and make cargo movement more seamless..." he added.

that this target would be achieved even before 2030. "From my conversations with President Putin since yesterday, and the potential we see, I don't think we'll have to wait until 2030. We are moving forward with determination to achieve that goal ahead of schedule, and my confidence is growing," he said.

Modi claimed that the speed and scale of "change" India has achieved under his 11 years of rule is unprecedented. "Following the principle of reform, perform, and transform, India is rapidly moving towards becoming the world's third-largest economy. Our resolve is stronger than ever, and we are moving forward with great confidence and at a rapid pace towards our goals. Next-generation reforms in GST and reduction in compliance are steps taken to promote

ease of doing business," he stated. Putin says Russia willing to multiply imports of Indian goods and services to reduce trade deficit. Highlighting the importance of the India-Russia Business Forum, President Putin said these engagements have allowed business leaders of the two countries to build new contacts and initiate talks on future commercial deals, and launch forward-looking, mutually beneficial projects.

He said the Russian delegation has not come to India to discuss only energy and sign oil and gas deals but to develop multifaceted relations with India in many spheres. The India-Russia Business Forum, Putin said, "is devoted to the possibilities of the Indian economy and aims to inform our economic operators about

these opportunities, so that we can open up our markets to mutual satisfaction and mutual development." Read More: Putin launches India division of Russia's state-funded TV network. Noting that Indian manufacturing and light industries, its IT sector, and the pharmaceutical industry are among the world's leaders, Putin said that Russia is carefully analysing India's experience and uses it in implementing our national programmes for import substitution and localisation of production of high-value-added products. "The governments of both countries, along with the Prime Minister and me, are paying close attention to deepening Russia-India multifaceted economic ties. Following today's talks,.

Select committee to review proposed changes to Himachal Pradesh Tenancy Act

(Gns). The Himachal Pradesh Assembly has decided to refer the proposed amendment of the provisions of section 118 of the Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act, 1972, to a select committee for detailed consideration. On the final day of the winter session held at Dharamshala on Friday, after discussion, the House agreed to send the bill to the committee. Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi presented the bill for discussion. Speaking on its provisions, the minister clarified that the government is not weakening Section 118 of the Himachal Pradesh Land

Reforms Act. BJP legislator Randhir Sharma had urged the House to refer the amendment bill to the select committee for scrutiny. He stated that any



changes in section 118 will not be in the interest of the people of the state. He further said that Section 118 exists to safe-

guard the interests of the people of Himachal Pradesh by preventing outsiders from purchasing land in the state. "Weakening this provision, even in the name of attract-

ing investment, could have serious long-term consequences. Therefore, this amendment bill should be withdrawn," said Sharma, adding that if the government is unwilling to withdraw it, the proposed changes must at least undergo careful scrutiny by the Assembly's Select Committee.

The opposition had been questioning the intent of the amendment when it was tabled in the House. Participating in the discussion, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu accepted the request and asked Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania to constitute a select committee to deliberate on the bill. The Speaker directed that the committee include members from both the ruling party and the opposition.

Kerala CM Vijayan accuses Cong of shielding Rahul Mamkootathil MLA

(Gns). Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday came down heavily on the Congress leadership for shielding Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil for long despite being aware of his perverted behavior. Addressing the media in Kochi on Friday, Pinarayi Vijayan said that the police are taking effective steps to find Rahul Mamkootathil, who has been absconding for the past nine days in connection with sexual harassment cases. "Some have adopted measures to protect this accused and help him escape. There are even reports suggesting the

places where he is hiding, including that he is in Karnataka. We need to doubt whether these steps



are being taken purposely to protect him. Those Congress leaders who are

shielding the legislator should stop doing so, as he has been hiding and avoiding arrest with their support," CM Vijayan said. Stating that Rahul Mamkootathil's actions

were shocking to the human conscience, Pinarayi Vijayan said those were not the actions of a healthy mind, but of someone with a severe sexual perversion. He asked whether such actions were appropriate for a public servant. "Shouldn't such a public servant have been removed from the party at the very moment the allegations were made?" he asked. He also claimed that the Congress leadership had prior knowledge of the allegations. "These are not new. It is said that the leadership was aware of the information related to this earlier," he said.

NCP MLA Amol Mitkari says 'Ajit Era' will begin In Maharashtra

(Gns). NCP MLA Amol Mitkari claimed here on Friday that the statement of senior Congress leader and Maharashtra CM Prithviraj Chavan that a Marathi man could become the Prime Minister, due to the fall out of revelations of the Jeffrey Epstein files, should be taken "very seriously". "The statement cannot be taken lightly. An Ajit 'Parv' (era) will arrive in Maharashtra soon. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has been working as an energetic minister in the Mahayuti government for the past year. The concept of the Laadki Bahin Yojana was Ajit Dada's and he also implemented it. Due to this,

the Mahayuti won the assembly elections," NCP MLA Amol Mitkari said. "Ajit Pawar is a hard working leader. He is never



angry or upset with the government. The opposition accuses him yet Ajit Pawar works without being disturbed at all. He continues to work among the people,

serves the people and strengthens the grand Mahayuti alliance. Look closely at Ajitdada. He has never expressed anger.

"He has never been aggressive anywhere. Ajit Dada has continued to do his work peacefully during this period. Dada's work is appealing to the people,"

Ajit Pawar-led NCP MLA Amol Mitkari said. However, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis dismissed any possibility of change in the Prime Minister's leadership, reacting to the statement made by senior Congress leader and Maharashtra CM Prithviraj Chavan's statement a couple of days ago. "Modi's health is excellent. Even a 40-year-old would be ashamed to compare himself with Modi's health. Prithviraj Baba has such dreams, but remember one thing—our country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is doing an excellent job. The country has immense love for him.

Rural cooperative banks strengthening economy of rural India: Shah

(Gns). Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that the Rural Cooperative Banks are strengthening the economy of rural India and ensuring economic progress of the country's villages. He said that to make the rural banks and financial institutions modern, fast, secure, and competitive, the 'Sahkar Sarathi Private Limited (SSPL)' and its 14 new services and products have been launched.

According to Shah, these initiatives will make cooperative banking fast, secure, transparent, technology-enabled, and consumer-centric, and will enable them to provide quality services comparable to commercial banks.

resolution will also be available, the cooperation minister added. Shah on Friday



Additionally, facilities such as paperless loan systems, easy verification through the e-KKC portal, and real-time complaint

addressed NABARD's Earth Summit in Gujarat's Gandhinagar, calling it the country's first platform of its kind, where the power of

cooperatives, financial understanding, technological innovation, and grass-roots experiences will be put together to provide a global platform for rural innovation. He informed that the summit, which will be for two days, will feature deliberations on various topics such as investment, empowerment of women's cooperative societies, innovation, fintech, and rural bio-economy. Shah has also said that in the times to come, cooperative insurance is going to be introduced, be it health insurance, life insurance, agriculture insurance, or accident insurance.

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Editorial

Tentative Calm

The newest diplomatic push to end the war in Ukraine exposes a paradox at the heart of the current moment: negotiations are speeding up, yet the road to an actual settlement remains strewn with obstacles that neither side appears ready to clear. Five hours of talks in Moscow between Russia's president and the US president's special envoy produced polite signals of progress, yet no movement on the core issues that matter.

Both Kyiv and Moscow continue to speak of opportunities for peace, but neither side is prepared to concede the fundamentals that could make any agreement workable. Russia enters these discussions with a mixture of confidence and grievance. Buoyed by incremental gains on the battlefield, the Kremlin has tightened rather than relaxed its terms. Its demand that Ukraine surrender territory it still controls is not merely a bargaining posture ~ it is presented as proof of strategic inevitability. The Russian leadership has also resurrected a familiar narrative about Europe's supposed illusions of defeating Russia, coupling it with a theatrical declaration of readiness should the continent "choose" war. This is less a threat than an attempt to frame Russia as the aggrieved power forced into confrontation, a story Moscow has leaned on since 2014.

Ukraine, for its part, is trapped between the suffering of a prolonged war and the dangers of a premature peace. Kyiv cannot afford a settlement that effectively green-lights future attacks, nor can it agree to a territorial carve-up after thousands of lives have been lost resisting exactly that. President Zelenskyy has said as much, noting that there are "no simple solutions". His government insists that any peace deal must include credible security guarantees ~ above all, protection from another invasion a year or two down the line. Without that, a ceasefire becomes little more than a pause before the next assault. Complicating matters further is a growing divergence between Washington's urgency and Europe's caution.

The United States is pressing hard for a deal, refining a plan initially viewed as tilted toward Russia and trying to balance incompatible demands. European capitals, alarmed by the first version of that plan, are inserting their own revisions and reminding Washington that Ukraine's security is not a negotiable commodity. The result is a diplomatic process that has widened rather than narrowed the field of disagreements. For now, both sides continue to fight even as they negotiate. Claims and counter-claims of battlefield advances underscore the reality that neither Moscow nor Kyiv believes the military balance has decisively shifted. And until one side concludes that the cost of war outweighs the political price of compromise, negotiations will remain a theatre for posturing rather than transformation. The push for peace is real. So are the obstacles. What is missing is not diplomacy but alignment: a moment when the interests of all major actors converge sufficiently to allow a deal that does not collapse under its contradictions. That moment may not yet have arrived.

VFS Global: Redefining Travel Through Trust, Technology, and Transparency

The traditional visa application process has long been a patchwork of manual checks, document submissions, and in-person verifications. Today, AI-driven document recognition, biometric authentication, and predictive analytics are streamlining these workflows to unprecedented levels. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) paired with machine learning can now extract and verify data from passports and supporting documents in seconds, while computer vision systems detect anomalies or potential tampering far more accurately than the human eye.

When trust is embedded into every interaction, transparency is evident at every step, and innovation is applied with empathy — borders transform from barriers into gateways, enabling opportunity, understanding, and shared progress for all.

VFS Global does not work in association with any third-party entity for appointment allocation. Applicants are advised to beware of scammers and fraudulent entities who claim to be associated with the organisation in any capacity or pose as VFS Global.

In today's world of growing global mobility, seamless travel begins long before a flight takes off — with visa processing, verification, and data security. As a trusted partner to its client governments worldwide, VFS Global continues to set industry benchmarks by combining technology, transparency, and trust to simplify global travel.

Crucially, this is not just about speed; it is about security and adaptability. Automated risk-scoring models can adjust in real time based on emerging

(Gns). Despite major advancements in the road infratech sector, road congestion, safety concerns, climate resilience, and technological integration remain key challenges. India needs to work on finding and developing innovative solutions, best practices, and policies to transform its roads for the future. Despite major advances in the road infratech sector, the country still stands at the crossroads of safety, sustainability, and innovation.

We must therefore reaffirm our commitment to building safe, efficient, and sustainable roads. Every year, over 1.7 lakh lives are lost on Indian roads, a crisis that demands urgent intervention. While global road fatalities have declined by 5 per cent, India has seen a 10 per cent rise, underscoring the need for technology-driven, policy-backed, and infrastructure-led interventions. As India progresses towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy, infrastructure plays a pivotal role in

A new study examining 75 years of constitutional bench verdicts has opened an uncomfortable but necessary conversation: India's highest court, even while expanding constitutional protections for Dalits, has often spoken in ways that perpetuate the very hierarchies it seeks to dismantle. It is a paradox that sits at the heart of India's democratic journey ~ progressive outcomes expressed through regres-

portals. The organisation has no association with third parties selling appointments or offering "priority access." Applicants are urged to stay vigilant and report suspicious activity through the official anti-

fraud portal at <https://www.vfsglobal.com/en/donotfallforfraud/>

Emerging solutions such as blockchain-based verification, digital travel credentials, and predictive AI hold the potential to make cross-border movement even more seamless. Their success, however, will depend on embedding traveller-first principles — giving individuals greater control over their personal data, ensuring transparency at every stage, and designing processes that adapt to diverse needs and circumstances.

Free movement is ultimately more than a logistical exercise; it is a relationship between nations and the people they welcome. As a trusted partner to governments worldwide, VFS Global is committed to advancing innovations that enhance security, improve efficiency, and empower travellers. From services like VAYD to a growing portfolio of value-added options, the company's focus remains on solutions that make travel smoother and more inclusive.

By integrating innovation with empathy, VFS Global continues to redefine what it means to travel freely — turning borders

Safer roads a vital concern for India

important. India needs stronger collaborations between policymakers, industry, and academia to develop a sustainable and safe roads ecosystem.



Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and policy incentives must be leveraged for large-scale infrastructure modernization.

Global best practices, emerging technologies, and data-driven insights must guide future infrastructure planning. The country needs a holistic approach to road safety, combining the latest technological advancements with innovative practices to create safer roads for everyone. By prioritizing

contribution to the fatalities is about 12 per cent.

To reduce fatal road accidents in India, engineers need to design roads that address the needs of all and guide driver behaviour. Steps need to be taken to improve safety of roads infrastructure for both new and existing roads, both in residential areas and on highways. With 90 per cent of casualties occurring in developing countries, road crashes are the leading cause of death around the world for children and young people between 15 and 29 years of age. The best solution to reduce fatal road accidents is to develop safer roads with at least 3-5 star safety rating, as research has shown that a person's risk of death or serious injury is approximately halved for each incremental star rating. What India needs is a Road safety vaccine similar to the Covid-19 vaccine. This road accident vaccine should include tougher licensing norms, star rating for drivers and stricter elec-

tronic enforcement. The country needs infrastructure safety star ratings to be published, so that the community better understands the safety of our roads.

Just like the safety ratings of cars, India needs to know the safety ratings of the roads the public drives on. The International Road Federation (IRF) as part of its effort to reduce fatal road accidents in the country has taken up safe road construction projects in seven states including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. These roads will be the safest roads in the country with minimum accidents and almost no road fatality; the most desirable design standards are being selected and implemented. The 5E's of safe road operation including Engineering, Enforcement, Encouragement, Education and Emergency care are being fully carried out while construction of the highways is in full swing.

Judging Language

those who have never lived the experience of caste discrimination. In such a landscape, metaphors and analogies that appear harmless to those drafting judgments can carry profound insult for those whom



the judgments concern. The findings are sobering. Caste oppression is likened to disability. Dalit communities compared to "ordinary horses" in contrast to "race horses." Poverty and marginalisation are portrayed

as personal shortcomings that can be overcome through diligence and education rather than as the outcome of centuries of exclusion. At times, even the origins of caste have been sanitised into a malises stereotypes, it subtly limits the judiciary's capacity to fully comprehend the structural nature of caste. Courts do not merely interpret the Constitution; they model how society talks about equality.

Their words permeate classrooms, arguments in courtrooms, and public discourse. A stray analogy can travel further than the judgment it accompanies. There are, however, signs of institutional awakening.

Recent efforts to review discriminatory practices in prisons and to issue handbooks discouraging gender-stereotyped language show that the Court recognises how outdated vocabulary can distort legal rea-

soning. Yet the caste study makes clear that reform cannot rely on voluntary sensitivity alone. Genuine change requires expanding the spectrum of experience within the judiciary itself. Without diverse voices at the table, the Court risks repeating the same linguistic lapses that this study now documents with precision. India's constitutional promise rests not only on what judges decide but also on how they choose to articulate those decisions. A judiciary that speaks in a vocabulary sensitive to dignity strengthens public trust and enhances the moral weight of its rulings. By confronting the biases embedded in its own language, the Court has taken a significant first step. What follows should be a sustained commitment to introspection, representation, and the recognition that justice demands not only sound principles, but also words that honour those they seek to protect.

“From calling my mother ‘ammi’ to waking up to the azaan - Fahid slowly slipped into my life”, says Apurva Agnihotri from COLORS ‘Seher Hone Ko Hai’

Apurva Agnihotri has officially stepped into COLORS' 'Seher Hone Ko Hai' as Dr. Farid with a dignified presence that fuels one of the show's biggest twists. With Mahi Vij as Kausar and Rishita Kothari as Seher, the show is a mother-daughter saga that has gripped the audiences since its premiere. Set in the heart of Lucknow, the drama follows Kausar's relentless fight to give her sixteen-year-old daughter the education and autonomy she herself was denied, even as her husband Parvez, an uncaring patriarch, attempts to force Seher into marriage with Mahid (Parth Samthaan), the heir of the powerful Mufti family. Caught in this storm is Mahid, nursing wounds of his own and seeking solace and answers from Dr. Farid, a healer, who is in need of healing himself. In a candid chat, Apurva Agnihotri reflects on essaying this layered role, the emotional complexity he brings to Dr. Farid, and the mystery that continues to bind his character to Kausar.

1. Tell us about the show.

A. Seher Hone Ko Hai follows the journey of a mother and daughter trying to break a cycle of oppression and patriarchy that has shadowed their family for generations. Kausar brings her sixteen-year-old daughter, Seher, to Lucknow

because she wants her to have the freedom and education, she herself never got the chance to fight for. But Seher's father, Parvez, strongly opposes it. He's intent on getting her married to Mahid from the influential Mufti family. As Seher gradually understands what it means to stand up for her own dreams, Mahid enters her world, a young man expected to carry forward his grandfather's legacy as a religious leader. From the outside he seems privileged, almost perfect, but he carries emotional wounds no one sees. While Mahid seeks treatment from my character, Dr Farid, fate slowly nudges Seher and Mahid toward each other. And the hidden connection between Dr Farid and Kausar becomes the show's biggest mystery. Amid all this, the mother and daughter spark an unexpected rebellion, leaving viewers to wonder whether they can truly break free from the cage of patriarchy. And with its scale, emotions, and storytelling, Seher Hone Ko Hai unfolds in a way that feels larger than life.

2. Tell us what attracted you to your role?

A. What attracted me instantly was the duality of Dr Farid. On the outside,



he's a respected doctor, a man everyone turns to for help. But inside, he's a father still figuring out how to emotionally reach his adopted daughter, Amal. Then Mahid walks into his life as a patient, and suddenly there's this unexpected bond forming between them. Add to that the explored history he shares with Kausar, and Farid becomes a man constantly pulled between logic and old, buried emotions. As a father myself, I instantly connected to him. I'm a girl dad, so I understand what it means to want to protect, guide, and still learn every day. Bringing my experience as a father into this show has been incredibly special.

3. How did you prep for this show?

A. I really wanted to get this right, so I started by reading up on basic neurology and some psychiatric frameworks just to understand how someone like Farid thinks, observes, and holds space for other people while keeping his own storms tucked away. I even went through a few real case studies to understand the emotional fatigue and discipline that come with this profession. And of course, I worked a lot on my Urdu because Farid comes

from a world of calmness and tehzeeb, and that must come through in the way he speaks. What honestly surprised me was how the character slowly started slipping into my real life. I caught myself calling my mother ammi, waking up to the sound of azaan without even setting an alarm, and even started calling my own daughter by my real daughter's name Amal at home. From calling my mother ammi to waking up to the azaan - Fahid slowly slipped into my life. These tiny shifts made Farid feel real to me.

4. How is this show different from earlier Muslim-backdrop shows on TV?

A. For me, the cultural backdrop is secondary to the story. What truly stands out here is the core emotion, a mother and daughter fighting generations of patriarchy so one dream doesn't have to die just because the previous one did. This isn't about stereotypes or community labels. It's about freedom, choices, and the courage to rewrite your destiny.

5. Since the narrative revolves around traditions and religious nuances, how did you ensure nothing comes across as insensitive or misrepresented?

A. Right from day one, sensitivity was non-negotiable for the makers. Every detail, language, rituals, relationships, was

approached with care, research, and constant discussion with people who understand this world deeply. For me, the biggest rule was simple: treat every character as human first. When you work from empathy instead of assumptions, respect follows naturally. And I've been very conscious about making sure nothing feels exaggerated or misrepresented.

6. How did you feel comfortable embracing a narrative set in a different cultural and religious world from your own?

A. Honestly, labels never mattered to me. What mattered was the story. This world has been created with so much respect and care that it never felt like I was stepping into something unfamiliar. At its core, it's about very universal things, a mother's courage, a daughter's hope, a young man's inner conflict, and a doctor who tries to hold everyone's broken pieces together.

7. What are your thoughts about the hatred around Muslim community?

A. I'd prefer not to speak about hatred toward any particular community. That's not what Seher Hone Ko Hai stands for. Our story isn't built on labels or identities; it's built on people. It's about a family, their struggles, their dreams, and the choices that define them.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Gujarat



Punjab partners with IIT-Madras to train 5,000 teachers as career mentors

(Gns). Punjab has taken a lead across the country by collaborating with the IIT-Madras Pravartak to roll out a state-wide career guidance program to create a structure where every teacher becomes a trained career mentor.

Disclosing this here today, Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains said that over 5,000 teachers will be trained to guide students towards informed, future-ready career choices under the ambitious teachers-upskilling program.

Bains stated that the program will offer teachers free online training in foundational career counselling, skills for classroom sessions and one-on-one guidance.

They will gain access to top 100 high-demand careers, structured assess-



ment tools and a comprehensive guidance framework aligned with emerging national and global career trends. IIT Madras Pravartak will provide continuous academic support

this engagement, teachers will serve as the backbone of a structured career guidance ecosystem," Bains stated.

Dr Amarpal Singh, Chairman PSEB, added that this initiative is expected to particularly benefit students in rural and underserved areas, offering them access to high-quality guidance that was earlier limited to private counsellors. Over the next few months, thousands of teachers will acquire new skills, new confidence and a new ability to shape the futures of lakhs of children.

Expressing happiness over the partnership with PSEB, Chief Knowledge Officer of IIT Madras Srikanth said, "Our aim is simple — no child in Punjab should make a career choice in confusion or without the right information."

District Election Officer held a meeting with representatives of political parties

Mega camp/open meeting will be organized today and tomorrow

Mathura. Under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh, a meeting was held with representatives of all political parties regarding the special intensive revision campaign. The District Magistrate informed the representatives of all political parties that a mega camp/open meeting will be organized on 6 and 7 December 2025 at all the polling stations of the five assemblies of the district.

District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh has requested the representatives of all political parties to activate their respective BLAs and get the counting forms of the remaining voters filled and received by the BLOs through the said mega camp. Widely publicize the mega camp through BLA and make all the residents of the district aware and motivate them to take advantage of the mega camp/open meeting organized in connection with the special intensive revision campaign. Collection, digitization and mapping of

enumeration forms will be done by BLOs in the mega camp. All the BLOs will be present at their respective



District Magistrate meeting with representatives of political parties

booths and carry out the work of special intensive review. On 6th and 7th December, mega camp/open meeting will be organized at all the polling centers of the district from 10 am to 5 pm. The District Magistrate has requested all the residents of the district to be present at their respective booths and provide their counting forms to the BLO. The District Magistrate has informed that the ASDD list will be read out/verified in the open meeting in the Mega Camp and after getting the minutes of the open meeting and the ASDD list signed by the booth level agents and distinguished voters present, it will be

handed over to the booth level agents for claims and objections. The District Magistrate has requested

meter readers of the electricity department, Asha, ANM, Anganwadi workers, all teachers of regional schools (except those on duty of BLOs)Remains) etc. will be present. In the mega camp/open meeting, there will be a data entry operator, a public announcement system, drinking water, chairs for sitting etc. at one polling station. The District Magistrate has informed that the voters of the Mega Camp area are being invited by Munadi to the Mega Camp. The mega camp is being spread from door to door through the garbage vans of the Municipal Corporation. Information about the camp is being disseminated to the public through the public announcement system and screens installed in the district. Additional District Magistrate Finance and Revenue Dr. Pankaj Kumar Verma, Aditya Tiwari and Yatendra Mukaddam from Congress Party, Virendra Yadav from Samajwadi Party, Prem Prakash and Munendra Singh Nigam from Bahujan Samaj Party, Assistant District Election Officer Manoj Khandelwal and other officials were present in the meeting.

Raghav Chadha demands ban on 10-min delivery, cites inhumane working conditions

(Gns). Raising concern over the inhumane working conditions of quick commerce delivery agents, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Friday demanded a ban on 10-minute delivery services.

Speaking in Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament, he flagged the issues faced by delivery agents of quick commerce and instant commerce companies like Zomato, Swiggy and Blinkit. "In official language, they are called gig workers, but I refer to them as the invisible wheels of the Indian economy," the AAP leader said.

"These quick-commerce and instant-commerce companies have reached billion-dollar valuations riding on the shoulders of this silent workforce. Yet the condition of these gig workers is worse than that of daily-wage labourers," he noted.

Sharing the everyday struggles of delivery agents, the AAP MP raised three key issues: the oppression of speed and delivery time — the dangerous trend of "10-minute delivery; the fear of customer harassment; and dangerous working conditions".

"At a red light, a delivery worker is constantly worried that if he gets delayed, his ratings will fall, his



incentives will be cut, or the company may block his ID. So, in order to deliver within 10 minutes, he over-speeds, jumps signals, and puts his life at risk," he stated.

He further highlighted that when an order is 5-7 minutes late, the customer often calls and scolds the delivery boys, threatens to complain, and then gives them a one-star rating.

"And that one-star rating ruins their entire month's performance and earnings," he noted.

Raising the issue of the dangerous working conditions, Chaddha said that

these gig workers work long shifts of 13-14 hours a day, whether in heat, cold, rain, fog, or pollution.

"They work without any protective gear, or special incentives. Their working conditions are worse than the workers inside factories. They neither get permanent employment, nor humane working conditions, nor accident insurance. Yet they hide their pain, deliver our order, and smile while saying, "Sir, please give me 5-star rating," he added.

Urging the House and the Government to think about these gig workers, Chaddha demanded that the 10-minute delivery must be banned.

"If we expect our food to reach us in 10 minutes,

then we can also expect this House to think about their well-being," he concluded.

Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan's son, Abdullah Azam, was sentenced to seven years in prison and a fine of Rs 50,000 by the Special MP-MLA Court here on Friday after being convicted in the fake passport case.

Abdullah, who is in Rampur jail along with his father, Azam Khan, appeared in court via video conferencing.

(Gns). Recognising email as an important mode of official communication, the government is upgrading the legacy email system to a cloud based, secure and scalable system.

This upgrade is being carried out through M/s Zoho Corporation Ltd, a reputed Indian software

Bihar to form 3 new depts; MSME directorate to drive employment push

(Gns). Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced on Friday that the state government will create three new departments to meet its target of providing jobs and employment to one crore young people over the next five years (2025-30).

In a message posted on X, he said that to achieve this goal, it is essential to expand skill-development training for youth and ensure access to quality higher and technical education. He added that intensive monitoring will also be required.

"For this purpose, instructions have been issued to create three new departments: the Department of Youth, Employment and Skill Development; the

Department of Higher Education; and the Department of Civil Aviation will focus on providing employment through various schemes aimed at creating entrepreneurship opportunities for the youth over the next five years.



The creation of these departments will significantly help in providing jobs and employment to a larger number of young people in the state," he stated.

He added that the Youth, Employment and Skill Development Department

will focus on providing employment through various schemes aimed at creating entrepreneurship opportunities for the youth over the next five years.

The Chief Minister said, "Many new airports are being constructed in the state, and under the UDAN scheme, several more airports are proposed. A separate Department of Civil Aviation will accelerate this process, strengthen the industrial environment, create new employment opportunities, and help boost the export of products manufactured in the state."

Additionally, the state government has decided to create a separate Directorate of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and the Bihar Marketing Promotion Corporation to support its employment targets.

The MSME Directorate will establish mega skill centres in every district to enhance youth skills related to micro, small and medium enterprises, ensuring greater job and employment opportunities.

Confluence of talents: 'Youth Mahotsav 2025' organized by Youth Welfare Department, Mathura successfully concluded

Mayor inaugurated the festival, inspected the stalls Mathura. With the aim of providing a platform to the creativity, art and scientific thinking of the youth, a grand event of 'Youth Mahotsav 2025' was organized by the Youth Welfare Department, Mathura in the auditorium of BSA College. Young participants from across the district participated enthusiastically in this festival. The festival started with a dignified ceremony, in which chief guest Mayor Vinod Aggarwal started the program by lighting the lamp. On this occasion, District Youth Welfare Officer Prem Shankar Gautam gave a hearty welcome to the chief guest by presenting him a bouquet. Chief guest Mayor Vinod Aggarwal ji in his inspirational address encouraged all the participants to make best use of their talents and contribute

ing, poetry writing, painting, and elocution competitions.



Mayor Vinod Aggarwal inspecting the stalls

to nation building. The festival included a wide range of cultural and intellectual competitions, prominent among which were folk songs (groups), folk dances (groups), story writing, poetry writing, painting, and elocution competitions.

Apart from this, the science fair was the center of attraction, where the students of Raman Lal Sora Wala School displayed excellent and practical projects related to science,

which were appreciated by everyone. Closing and prize distribution: The closing ceremony of the program was organized by Deputy Director V.C. It was held under the chairmanship of Srivastava (Youth Welfare and Provincial Guard, Agra Division). The Deputy Director was welcomed by the District Youth Welfare Officer. Srivastava distributed awards from his lotus flowers to the winners who performed best in various disciplines and wished them all the best for their future. Mrs. Swati Pandey (Programme Incharge), Ravi Babu Sharma, Tarun Gautam (Area Youth Welfare Officer), and Rahul Kulshrestha (Junior Assistant) had special and invaluable contributions in successfully conducting this entire event. The results of the competitions

IndiGo chaos leaves Lucknow flyers stranded as airfares skyrocket

(Gns). Passengers of IndiGo continued to face harrowing times in Lucknow on Friday, as almost all the airline's flights were cancelled. Passengers waiting for their flights at Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport to travel to Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bangalore were stranded after IndiGo canceled all its Lucknow-Delhi flights and flights to Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bangalore until late tonight.

Interestingly, the problem of the passengers increased after a single flight to Delhi scheduled for 11:30 PM on Friday night was priced at Rs. 18,000.

Meanwhile, fares for other flights have increased manifold. Air India's fare from Lucknow to Mumbai



has reached Rs 48,000, compared to around Rs 5,000 on normal days.

Similarly, the Air India fare from Lucknow to Hyderabad has gone up to Rs. 42,665.

Fares for direct flights from Lucknow to Delhi on December 7 and 8 have increased between Rs 14,000 and Rs 17,000.

The Air India flight at 8:30 PM on December 7 is priced at Rs. 46,301. The average fare to Delhi on normal days is around Rs 4,000. The Air India fare from Lucknow to Bangalore has reached Rs 68,790.

Since Thursday, passengers have been facing problems due to hours-long delays and cancellations of IndiGo and other flights, leading to considerable commotion at the airport.

Azam's son gets 7 years imprisonment in fake passport case in Rampur

(Gns). Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan's son, Abdullah Azam, was sentenced to seven years in prison and a fine of Rs 50,000 by the Special MP-MLA Court here on Friday after being convicted in the fake passport case.

Abdullah, who is in Rampur jail along with his father, Azam Khan, appeared in court via video conferencing.

(Gns). Recognising email as an important mode of official communication, the government is upgrading the legacy email system to a cloud based, secure and scalable system.

This upgrade is being carried out through M/s Zoho Corporation Ltd, a reputed Indian software



The judgement was passed by Special Judge Shobhit Bansal of the MP-MLA court. This is Abdullah's third sentence

for forging his date of birth. In this case, Abdullah was the only accused.

Eighteen days ago, father and son, Azam and Abdullah, were sentenced to seven years in prison each in the fake PAN card case. Both have been kept in Rampur jail since November 17.

Azam Khan, his wife Tanzeen, and Abdullah were sentenced to seven years each in the birth certificate case two years ago, in 2023. Azam Khan was released on bail on September 23 after 23 months in jail. Just 55 days later, he was sentenced again and sent back to jail.

The fake passport case dates back to 2019.

Rampur BJP leader Akash Saxena, now a BJP

MLA, filed an FIR at the Civil Lines police station. In the FIR, he stated, "Abdullah Azam fraudulently obtained and used two separate passports using forged documents. One passport shows his date of birth as January 1, 1993, which is correct according to his education records. The other passport shows 1990, which is fake."

Prosecution lawyer Swadesh Kumar Sharma stated that "the court held Abdullah guilty under Crime Number 594/2019".

Abdullah Azam has been sentenced and fined under sections 420, 467, 468, and 471 of the Indian Penal Code. Under section 420, he received 3 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10,000; under section 467, 7 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 20,000; under section 468, 3 years imprisonment and a fine of

Govt upgrading legacy email system

service provider, selected through an open competitive process, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Jitin Prasada informed the Rajya Sabha.

This model ensures timely upgrades, quick scaling up, seamless migration of existing accounts, and the integra-

tion of modern office productivity tools—such as word processors, spreadsheets, and presentation software with email service.

The security architecture of the e-mail platform has been defined rigorously to protect critical government data. The solution mandates that all email data be encrypted both at

rest and in transit, with specific requirements for end-to-end encryption using RSA 256 and TLS 1.3 standards.

The contract with the service provider ensures strict adherence to data sovereignty. The service provider has ensured that the cloud-based solution, including Primary,